RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP: (FILL IN NUMBER)

DUE DATE(S)_ ATTORNEY_7KK DOCKETED

Patent Case No.: 51737US019

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SEP 0 7 2004

First Named Inventor:

STEFELY, JAMES S.

Application No.:

10/078805

Group Art Unit:

1617

Filed:

February 18, 2002

Examiner:

Webman, Edward J.

Title:

BIOCOMPATIBLE COMPOUNDS FOR SUSTAINED RELEASE

PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, mailed June 23, 2003, in the aboveidentified application.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted. It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.